

I am proud of my record as a strong supporter of animal rights introducing and cosponsoring a variety of legislation to end the abuse of animals and conserve our natural resources. I believe it is our responsibility as a civilized society to treat animals fairly and humanely and to protect their habitats, and I will continue to fight for their well-being.

This June, in the Agriculture Appropriations bill for FY 2012, language to defund the USDA inspections of horse slaughter facilities was not included. This was the first time since 2005 despite bipartisan support in Congress. As Ranking Member on the Agriculture Subcommittee I supported a successful amendment to restore the language on prohibiting USDA inspectors in horse slaughter facilities. This amendment passed in the Appropriations Committee with bipartisan support 24-21. The ban on horse slaughter remains and the bill passed the House of Representatives.

Bills I Cosponsored in the 112th Congress:

- [H.R. 139](#) - the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act is named for two great American visionaries: Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who set aside the core of the Refuge in 1960, and Democratic Representative Morris Udall, who succeeded in doubling its size in 1980. H.R. 139 would continue the bipartisan legacy of protecting the Arctic Refuge
- [H.R. 198](#) - the Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act, which would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on dog training therapy at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers.
- [H.R. 835](#) - the Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act (PUPS) closes a loophole in current law to regulate puppy mills. (I sponsored this bill during the 111th Congress.)
- [H Res 47](#) - a resolution to express the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the contributions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Actions/Accomplishments in the 112th Congress:

- [Sent a letter](#) to USDA Secretary Vilsack to ask what he is doing to correct the problems outlined in the May 2010 Office of Inspector General (OIG) report of the Animal Care (AC) program within USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The audit found that AC's inspections of large-scale dog dealers failed to expose and highlight inhumane treatment of animals.
- [Sent a letter](#) to Jonathon B. Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service (NPS), asking that he halt the pending slaughter of over 500 Yellowstone bison currently being held at the Stephen's Creek Capture Facility on the Northern edge of Yellowstone

National Park.